

# MONTHLY WEATHER REVIEW,

## MAY, 1874.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,

Office of the Chief Signal Officer,

DIVISION OF

TELEGRAMS AND REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT OF COMMERCE AND AGRICULTURE

### I.—INTRODUCTORY.

This month has not been distinguished by any general storm of unusual severity, but numerous local thunder and hail-storms have been reported. The presence in the southeastern quarter of the United States of several large areas of high barometer has apparently produced a considerable rain-fall on the immediate Atlantic coast, with a decided deficiency in the interior of the country.

### II.—BAROMETRIC PRESSURE.

(1.) *In General.*—The average distribution of atmospheric pressure for the month of May is shown on the accompanying chart, from which it appears that the region of highest barometer includes the South Atlantic and Gulf States, while the areas of lowest pressure are respectively in the Missouri Valley and the St. Lawrence Valley; the barometric pressure in Oregon is notably higher than in New England, a feature which accords with the general law that pressures average higher on the eastern than on the western borders of oceans.

(2.) *Areas of High Barometer.*—Nine well-marked areas of high barometer have been traced during the month, five of which appear to have passed, without losing their identity, from the Pacific coast southeastward to the Atlantic.

(3.) *Areas of Low Barometer.*—Eight areas of low barometer, forming the centres of considerable atmospheric disturbances, have passed over the region covered by our stations, and their central tracks are shown on Chart No. I. In general the paths of these storm-tracks lie considerably further north than do those of May, 1873; their courses being almost due eastward; while those of last year were more frequently northeastward.

No. I. The course of this depression is traced, in the review for April, backwards to the Pacific coast. It was, on the 1st of May, central in Nebraska, and quite steep barometric gradients extended from that region to the Upper Lakes and to the Gulf States. The storm-centre which had been moving with extreme slowness during several preceding days, apparently moved southward to the western plains until, on the morning of the 3d, it was central in eastern Kansas. A very extensive area of cold air and high barometer had meanwhile pressed southeastward over the Lake region to the Middle